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From Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Olen Clifton Leach, since 1918 chief of the Division of Fish Culture, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, and for more than 40 years associated with Federal fish hatcheries, died this morning (June 3) at his home after a prolonged illness. He would have been 70 years old September 18.

Many items of technical equipment, including hatching troughs, rearing ponds, and other devices now used in modern hatcheries, were designed or improved by Mr. Leach.

Mr. Leach entered the employ of the Federal Government at the St. Louis, Mo., post office in August 1901, and on December 27, 1902, transferred to the United States Fish Commission in the fish car service. After details in the car service and the fish hatcheries at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, and Yes Bay, Alaska, he was appointed superintendent of the Manchester, Iowa, station in April 1914.

Because of his ability, particularly in the mechanical field, Mr. Leach was detailed for short periods to perform special work at many of the Bureau of Fisheries hatcheries. His associates considered him thoroughly versed in all the problems involved in the propagation of the 40-odd species of fish propagated by the Bureau.

In September 1916 he was made field superintendent and two years later became chief of the Division of Fish Culture, in which position, held until his death, he directed the work at more than 100 Federal fish hatcheries.

His list of publications includes "Artificial propagation of sturgeon," "Artificial propagation of whitefish, grayling, and lake trout," "Artificial propagation of brook trout and rainbow trout," "Artificial propagation of

shad," "Artificial propagation of pike perch, yellow perch, and pikes,"

"Cooperative fish culture," and "Culture of rainbow trout and brook trout in ponds."

These publications have been standard reference material every since their issuance.

He served as president of the American Fisheries Society during 1922-23.

During his tenure of office as chief of the Division of Fish Culture, the Federal fish-cultural establishments increased from 75 to 133 units, with an increase in output from approximately 5 billion to over 8 billion fish and eggs.

Mr. Leach served as advisor to several of the State Fish and Game Departments in developing programs for fishery propagation and conservation (of which Michigan is an outstanding example).

He also acted as consultant to private organizations and other agencies interested in fish-cultural problems.

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